

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2020

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.
2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2020**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. SHERIFF OFFICE UPDATE

Captain Isham gave the Board a printed monthly update for July, 2020. Patrol had approximately 1,600 calls for service last month, 53 traffic crashes. Oregon State Police has been shorthanded due to being pushed up to the Portland area and the Polk County Sheriff Office has been handling more of their crashes than usual.

There have been several mass gatherings on the lawn of the courthouse, which the Sheriff Office is monitoring. For the most part those gatherings have remained very peaceful. There was recently pot farm discovered within the county that had approximately 1,000 plants. The property owners found it on their own property while using a drone and reported it. The Sheriff's Office new drone has been a very useful asset and they are continuing to find more ways it can be useful. The in-house Reserve Academy was recently completed which was put on due to the lack of other agencies putting it on due to COVID. This was the first time Polk County has put their own Academy on and it was successful and have six reserve Deputies out of it.

The average jail population is up to approximately 58 inmates and today had 76. Court Security is working on securing an area to serve as a court room out at the Fairgrounds because of an upcoming trial. The jail is fully staffed and they are currently recruiting for a Corporal position in the jail as well as on patrol. The jail has seen an increase in inmates that are considered emotionally disturbed people (EDP). Typically they have one to two at a time and they currently have over a dozen.

The records department has a back log of CHL's due to COVID and the office being shut down. The Sheriff's Office has moved to doing those only by appointment and are out until December for those appointments. Next week they will hold a CHL fair and get as many people through that back log and then should be able to keep up with the demand.

Captain Isham informed the Board that the Sheriff's Office is still in the process of getting a River Response Plan signed by the Salem, Keizer, Independence, and Marion County which has been drafted for several years. It was recently sent out again and since all of those agencies are now under new supervision so they will have to start that process over again and are hoping to have it complete by the end of the summer. Marin Patrol helped the city of Salem cut out some snags that were stuck under the boat ramp at Wallace Marine Park and the snag at Buena Vista. They have also put up signage to warn people of the snag and that same day they had to rescue several people from the area. Commissioner Pope asked that the Sheriff Office keep the Board informed with regards to what safety measures they are applying and also what the agreement with the city of Salem looks like after it is complete because people often seek answers about that are often directed to them.

Commissioner Mordhorst asked what the process is with regards to the homeless shoplifting at business in West Salem. Captain said that if there is a habitual offender they will arrest the person but the problem is that a lot of time after they are brought in to the jail they are released in arraignment, which they Sheriff Office have no control over.

4. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, reviewed the case data for Oregon, Polk and Marion County. The state are now measuring things per 100,000 people as opposed to 10,000 people like they were before. Polk County is offering 6,933.7 tests per 100,000 people and the positive cases per 100,000 people are 384.6. The state is considering people recovered after 60 days of their positive test. Marion County is offering 10,115.6 tests per 100,000 people and their positive cases per 100,000 people is 844.8.

Dallas Retirement Village has 3 positive cases and will start testing this week. Salem Health has a total of 28 positive staff as of August 5th. Polk County Public Health has 8 current contact tracers from WOU and are hiring two more. We have 2 coordinators, 2 professors providing oversight, and they are currently monitoring 94 people. Ms. Umstead is still waiting to hear back from Willamette Workforce on the MOU that was sent recently. The Public Health Department has hired two Public Health workers as well as two other Public Health Workers that have been cross trained for contact tracing and investigation.

The Board was also provided a chart depicting the current week's metrics and also a breakdown of those metrics that Kristty Polanco, Coordinator for Contact Tracing, put together. Ms. Umstead pointed out that for Polk County the cases not traced to a known source is lower than is has been in the past and hopefully that will continue to go down.

Commissioner Ainsworth asked what the requirement is for school to have in person school. Ms. Umstead has said that at this point the case positivity has to be below 5% and that those guidelines are still changing every week.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operations Manager, informed the Board that he did a push trying to distribute some of the hand sanitizer that was in the Polk County PPE inventory because it has an expiration date and would rather it go out than sit on a shelf. Mr. Bender reached out to the agencies he sent orders to previously to see if they would like some and quite a few of them did. The County also received some more non-contact infrared thermometers. Commissioner Pope asked how Mr. Bender will be able to manage the fact that it is the beginning of fire season and how that will be different due to COVID. Emergency Managers from around the area are meeting in Amity tonight to discuss how to deployments will look and how they can manage the response with the COVID guidelines.

5. TIMBER COUNTIES COALITION AGREEMENT

Commissioner Pope stated that he has met with a small group of County Commissioners who are frustrated that the coalition of counties that are supposed to represent US Forest Service Lands could not agree on how to maintain representation in DC. This group of counties wants to form a coalition to put funds together to fund representation by Jameson Sullivan in DC, specifically for him to continue doing his work focused on Forest Service Lands. He was asked to support a fee of \$7,500 from each county to fund this work. Commissioner Pope asked the other Commissioners if they are in favor of supporting the fee.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD AGREES TO SUPPORT THE \$7,500 FEE.

6. RECLASSIFICATION

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, is request a reclassification of an Office Specialist II in Community Corrections. This is specifically requesting that Lexi Rincon be reclassified from a Office Specialist II to a Case Load Specialist because she has been working out of class for almost a year in the position. Jodi Merritt, Director of Community Corrections, is requesting that because she has been working out of class that she be moved to a step II of the new classification. Had she been reclassified earlier when she should have been she would already be moving into step 2. If approved this would be effective August 1 and would have a fiscal impact of \$12,000 including PERS, and would not be that large if she had been reclassified before.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE RECLASSIFICATION TO CASE LOAD SPECIALIST, STEP 2.

7. NON-LISTED ITEMS - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:48 am.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: August 18, 2020